THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor - - SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 49 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1916. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

E.L.F.S. FIXTURES.

Friday, Feb. 25th.

Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.

Kensington Town Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting.

Saturday, Feb. 26th.

Grundy St., 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

BOW BATHS, 4 to 7 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Sunday, Feb. 27th.

Special Self-Denial Meetings, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Grove, Stratford, 12 noon, Miss Somers, Mr. Brasher.

Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, Mrs. Bouvier.

Special Self-Denial Meeting, 3 p.m., Victoria Park, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and others.

Monday, Feb. 28th.

Custom House, 5 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Beamish.

Tuesday, Feb. 29th.

Grundy St., 11 a.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.

Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walshe, Miss Lynch.

Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Drake.

Wednesday, March 1st.

Copenhagen Place, 12.30 p.m., Miss M. Price.

The Dorset, Stratford, 1.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

73 Calderon Road, Leyton, Mrs. Bouvier.

53 St. Leonard St., 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

Chrisp St., 6.30 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Mrs. Drake.

Thursday, March 2nd.

55 Fife Rd., 3.30 p.m., Tea Party.

Friday, March 3rd.

Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss M. Price, Mrs. Drake.

Beckton Rd., 6.30 p.m., Mr. Dunstan.

Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

Saturday, March 4th.

Well St. & Morning Lane, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Vernon Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.

Sunday, March 5th.

Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Drake.

Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Miss Vengerova on "The Russian Woman." Chair: Miss S. Pankhurst.

E.L.F.S. ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH,
BOW BATHS HALL, *Roman Rd.*,
4 TO 7 P.M., 8 TO 10 P.M.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS—400 Old Ford Road, Bow and 20 Railway Street, Poplar. Dinners from 12 to 2 p.m.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, are still very urgent. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Mothers and Children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Tuesdays 2 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Garments for our Clothing Stalls are much needed, and should be sent to the "Mother's Arms," 438 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

SELF DENIAL WEEK.

DEAR READERS,

From February 26th to March 5th, is Self Denial Week in the E.L.F.S. The Federation needs funds for every branch of its work. We have to press forward our claim for the vote and to carry on an active educational propaganda, increasing our membership and consolidating our forces. Tremendously important is the work of arousing women, everywhere to the need for putting an end to the grave social evils and injustices under which the peoples of the world are suffering to-day. No headway can be made without political and industrial power and organisation. No organisation can be built up without personal sacrifice and devotion to an ideal. The unorganised can always be safely set aside, their needs and rights are easily forgotten. As the War expenses increase, Government departments and Local Authorities grow harder and less human, and the woman who asks for a pension, allowance, or some other right, needs more and more an organisation of her own to help her and to fight for her. She, in her turn, must be ready to aid in building up the strength of the organisation for her own sake, and that of others. Therefore we members must all take our self-denial cards and do our best to collect funds for our Federation in Self-Denial Week.

From every part of the country working-class organisations write asking the E.L.F.S. to send speakers to their meetings. To answer this call, it is necessary that more of our women should fit themselves for the work and be enabled to do it.

The circulation of THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is extending greatly, not merely in East London, but in the provinces also, indeed one of the great distributing agents is selling six times as many papers as he was a few months ago. THE DREADNOUGHT brings us in touch with a host of friends who write us most kindly letters, but the price of the paper on which our DREADNOUGHT is printed is constantly rising. We therefore appeal to our many friends to help us to bear the heavy financial burden.

Our clinics, cost-price restaurants, co-operative factory, and so on, all add to the Federation's financial anxieties and load of work, and though the members of the staff, both paid and unpaid, are too zealous to think of themselves, they are chronically overworked, and to lighten their labours we need both money and personal service. Hardly anyone is too busy to spare some time for helping, hardly anyone is too poor to give something, and we ask of all as much as they can afford.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

TRIBUNALS and the CONSCRIPTS.

The merciless power of Conscription is now in force.

The War Office notices which are sent out ordering single men to present themselves for military service, announce that those who do not comply will be arrested as deserters, but make no allusion to certificates of exemption, and to the Tribunals before which men may plead their case.

Men who have been refused as medically unfit are receiving the Conscription notice notwithstanding.

The *Times* states that the certificates are "actually being taken away from them and destroyed."

As the authorities do nothing to help and inform the conscientious objector, it is the more necessary that others should do so. But in the House of Commons on February 21st Major Newman complained of a post-card issued by the Fellowship of Reconciliation asking sympathisers to help conscientious objectors by being present at the sitting of the Local Tribunals.

Mr. Long replied that this had not come to his notice, but that "each case will have to be considered on its merits."

Such replies coming from Ministers generally portend the breaking of pledges. It had been promised that the Tribunals should be public.

Mr. Asquith on the second reading of the Military Service Bill, quoted the message Henry V. gave to his Lord Derby, "the most glorious of all British annals," it ran:—

"Go 'cruit me Cheshire and Lancashire
And Derby hills that are so free;
No married man or widow's son,
No widow's curse shall go with me."

Among the pleas for exemption before the Military Service Tribunals were:—A clerk, the only son of a mother in ill-health—exemption refused. Clerk said it would kill his mother. Chairman remarked, "We are at War, and cannot take such cases into consideration."

A compositor, the sole support of his mother, applied for exemption at Twickenham. Application was refused.

A hay-trusser, who paid his mother 12s. a week, was told that she would be equally well-off with her separation allowance.

We can tell another tale—the maximum of 12s. 6d. is rarely granted.

A young man who helped to support his orphan sweetheart:—"She threatens suicide" if he enlists. No exemption granted. Why cannot allowances equal to those paid to wives, be granted in such cases?

A temporary Post Office sorter, blind in one eye and partially so in the other, applied for exemption, as he was supporting his mother and three children. He was granted two month's extension, but not exempted.

A conscientious objector who appealed was told that has *he had attested* no exemption could be granted.

IMPORTANT!

No man who offered for enlistment and was rejected after August 14th, 1915, can be compelled to serve. No further medical examination is necessary to avoid compulsion. If he has been so rejected he is outside the Act.

The Military authorities claim to refuse armlets to rejected men unless they hold Certificates of Rejection B 2505A, or B 2512A. Should such a man submit to further medical examination he will be treated as volunteering afresh, and if still unfit may be scheduled amongst those for clerical or other sedentary work.

If a man is outside the Military Service Act, but receives the yellow form W 3236, he should tell the recruiting officer that a mistake has been made.

The Rt. Hon. H. J. Tennant, Under Secretary of State for War, War Office, S.W., should be informed that these forms have been received, as he has promised to remedy such cases as far as possible.—Extract from Sir John Simon's letter to the *Daily Chronicle*.

"HARBOURING" HER SON!

At Lancaster, on February 22nd, a poor mother was sentenced to a month's hard labour for "harbouring" her son who had deserted from the Army. The woman's home was raided and her son was found crouching between the rafters and the ceiling. There will be more cases like this now that Conscription has come.

Alfred Kitson of Hull, was on Feb. 22nd, sentenced to pay two guineas or undergo 29 days imprisonment for refusing to fill up a National Register Form.

RENT ACT DEFIED!

Law Breaking by Barking and East Ham Landlords.

A number of Barking and East Ham landlords have raised their rents in defiance of the Rent Act, and a number of public-spirited Barking women, who are members of the Women's Labour League, have made it their business to explain the Rent Act to the tenants, and to advise them not to pay the increases which are being illegally demanded. The women have waited for the rent collectors and accompanied them on their rounds. The collectors have threatened the women with assault, and have told the tenants that the Act does not apply to the houses in which they are living, and that they will only get themselves into trouble by refusing to pay.

The illegal action of the landlords has been raised on the Town Council by some of the labour members, but the Council has decided that the matter only concerns the tenants, and that they must deal with it as best they can.

Arthur Blake.

Arthur Blake, of Blake's Clockhouse, East Street, Barking, and Faircroft Lodge, Longbridge Road, Barking, is one of the offending landlords. He is an ex-chairman of Barking Borough Council, and has been a bankrupt.

He owns Nos. 1 to 87, Kennedy Road, Barking, formerly rented at 8s., and has raised the rents to 8s. 6d. and 9s.; Blake also owns Nos. 1 to 87 in St. John's Road, Barking, where he has raised the rents. The rent of one of these houses which was 8s. 6d., was raised to 10s., when the tenancy was changed, but the tenant now refuses to pay the increase. The increases began in most of the houses twelve weeks ago, and all the tenants in Kennedy Road and St. John's Road have paid some weeks increase, but some now refuse. Blake has threatened that if the tenants do not pay the increased rent, he will force them to pay the rates, which have hitherto been paid by the landlord. This is illegal. The Rent Act expressly provides that if the landlord has hitherto paid the rates he must continue to do so.

Eviction Threatened.

The rent of No. 36 St. John's Road, was 8s. 6d. a week. The present tenant was the lodger of the previous tenant's lodger until five weeks ago, when she took over the tenancy with Blake's consent. Blake has raised the rent of this house to 10s., though he has made no alterations or improvements. The new tenant continued tendering 8s. 6d. This was accepted, and a receipt was given, but not a rent book. The tenant has paid her rent regularly, but nevertheless, Blake has illegally caused a notice to quit to be served upon her by Reid Taylor & Co., a firm of rent collectors and bailiffs of 47 High Street, Plaistow. The notice is dated February 21st, and orders the tenant to quit on February 28th. The tenant intends to take the case to Court and no doubt the women of the neighbourhood will be as ready to defend her as were the women of Govan and Partick when the Scotch landlords threatened to take similar action.

Thomas Young.

Another law-breaking *landlord* is Thomas Young, Cranbourn Road, Ilford. He owns twelve houses in St. Audrey's Road, Barking, the rents of which he has raised by 1s. a week. He also owns houses in Devon's

(Continued on page 432, col. 4.)

OUR ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

	£	s.	d.
Per inch	0	5	0
Per column	2	0	0
Per half-column ...	1	2	6
Per page	7	10	0
Per half-page... ...	4	0	0

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All communications should be sent to the—

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 1787.

AGENTS:

INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5 Duke Street, Charing Cross, W.C.; CITY AND SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.; MARLBOROUGH, 51 Old Bailey, E.C.; A. RITCHIE, Pembleton Row, Gough Square, E.C.; A. HAGGETT, Clark Street, Stepney, E.; JOHN HAYWARD, Manchester; THE WHOLESALE SOCIETY, 10 Johnson Street, Bolton.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SONS & Messrs. WILLING, & all Newsagents.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 6s. 6d.

Vol. II. No. 49 — Sat., Feb. 26th, 1916.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

SYMPATHY (?)

These are the dark days in which the unmarried men are receiving the yellow papers that summon them to fight as conscripts.

They have come to a crisis in their lives. Their minds review the horror of the cruel, sordid murder that is asked of them; they feel the influence of the decision on the others in their homes; they know the defenceless plight of those who are outlawed by the State. Their faith in the worth of righteousness for its own sake is being strongly tested.

"I am a working lad. I abhor warfare of any kind and form, with a strong, firm conviction. No power on earth will compel me to take life. English or German, it makes no difference to me whatever. We are flesh and blood alike, toiling hard, that we as workmen may still hold that which is most dear to us all."

The mothers of the young men are filled with fear. They have no trust in the Government or in Parliament. They have heard many stories of men at the Front, tied up in the line of fire for some petty fault. The casualty lists convey to them the belief that life is very cheap in the military world to-day, and they fear that the man who declares himself a conscientious objector will be shot.

On the other hand, the mothers know that if their sons obey the order, the chances of their coming home sound and well again are remote.

Mothers have seen too, though this is a lesser thought to them, that homes which were supported by sons in the Army are daily growing poorer, and that no increased allowance comes to meet the steady increase in the cost of food; 12s. a week is the maximum allowance that a lad may secure for his mother, but everyone in working-class districts knows that this allowance is very rarely granted.

People in working-class districts are beginning to realise, the extreme difficulty of obtaining the promised pensions for the relatives of those who have been killed, and for the men who have been disabled. Harshly administered rules are daily narrowing down the scheme originally announced.

To-day comes an actual case in point:—A motor driver, earning 50s. a week, was sent to the Front, and was afterwards discharged as medically unfit, on account of shattered nerves. He tried to return to civil employment, but his employer stated, and he himself agreed, that he was incapable of driving. He failed at first to secure a pension, but when the case was taken up by the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives he was granted 12s. 6d. a week for six months. The League protested that he was entitled to 25s. a week and 2s. a week for each of his two children (a baby in arms, and a girl of 7 years). Chelsea Hospital replied that the Medical Board was of opinion that the man was only partially disabled, that as the elder child was his stepdaughter, there must be no allowance on her behalf. For the baby a grant was made of 1s. 3d. a week. When the man was at the front, the little step daughter's allowance was paid in accordance with Army regulations. The promise that allowances should be paid on behalf of all the children maintained by a soldier, whether they are actually his own or not, was obtained after a good deal of agitation. Why should it not apply in the case of pensions? Little children, whose fathers have been killed or disabled, need as much to enable them to grow up strong as those whose fathers are at the Front.

The practice of refusing a man full pension on the ground that he can get "light work" operates most cruelly in the majority of cases, for "light work" is always difficult to obtain. A youth, living in East London has lost one arm, has received an injury to the other, and has many partially-healed bullet wounds in the legs. He has been granted a pension of 4s. 8d. a week, and told to work for the rest.

Throughout the war the medical examination of recruits has been quite superficial, and a large proportion of those accepted for service have broken down under the strain. There was always great difficulty in securing pensions in case of men who had contracted tuberculosis, rheumatism or heart complaint, during training or in the trenches, but of late the difficulty has been greatly intensified as is well known to those who are dealing constantly with the matter.

Why are pensions growing harder to obtain? Partly, I believe, because Conscription has come, and the effort to secure voluntary recruits has therefore slackened. Partly, because the public agitation, which secured the present scheme of pensions and allowances has largely died down, and the matter has been left in the hands of the bureaucrat to whom the poor rank and file human being is but a "case" to be put in a pigeon hole.

On February 16th, Mr. W. Thorne moved as an amendment to the Address, to add the words:

"But regret that there is no mention of any intention on the part of the Government to accept responsibility for the payment of allowances to all soldiers and sailors discharged from the Army or Navy on account of diseases contracted or developed during service with the colours."

It was contended by Mr. Thorne, Mr. Anderson, Sir Kinloch Cooke, Mr. Barnes and others, that once a man has been certified as fit for service by the Military authorities, or within a short specified time afterwards, the Government must assume responsibility for pensioning him and his dependants, should he become disabled in the service, whether by accident, wounds, or disease.

Evidence was cited to show that men had been discharged without pension disabled by frost bite, and by tuberculosis, contracted either from exposure or from sleeping next to men suffering from the disease. It was stated, on the authority of Sir Frederick Milner, that the Incorporated Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society had relieved 40,000 pensionless soldiers since war began. Sir Kinloch Cooke read the letter of a widow whose husband had left well-paid work to enlist, and had been passed as medically fit, both on enlistment and before going to France.

His widow wrote:—

"On the 18th October I was informed that he had died suddenly, and on Friday week last I had a communication from the Records Officer, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, informing me that I was not entitled to a pension as my husband had died from a malady he had suffered from for years, which I am bound to contradict, because my husband had never suffered a days illness all the 30 years I was married to him. I have to draw my allotment for another ten weeks, after which I shall be practically destitute with two children under 14 years dependent upon me."

Mr. Pringle told of a soldier who had been, "as far as anyone could tell, a healthy man in civil life." He became ill three months after training, and was put on "light work" in the Army. He was discharged a few months later, and a week afterwards he died. His wife and children were refused a pension, and were informed that the Royal Patriotic Fund was unable to help them.

Mr. Barnes quoted the case of a soldier in France, who fell off the tailboard of a wagon and was injured, but whose pension was refused. Yet if the man had been employed by any private firm in this country he would have been entitled to compensation.

Mr. Barnes very rightly complained that if a pension is refused by the War Office Medical Board, the aggrieved person can only appeal to the War Office and not to any outside body.

Mr. Hogge pointed out that if a man wishes to insure his life, and the Insurance Company's Medical Officer passes him as insurable, the Company must abide by the decision, even though the man should die as soon as the policy has been signed.

Mr. Forster and Mr. Tennant for the War Office, and Dr. Macnamara for the Admiralty, refused to agree to the principle that pensions should be paid in respect of all soldiers and sailors who are disabled or die in the service.

Mr. Forster expressed "great sympathy" and promised, as Mr. Tennant put it, "that sympathy will be used in an even greater degree."

But he refused the appeal of Colonel Yate that this "sympathy" should be embodied in the form of instructions to the Medical Boards, some of whom Mr. Forster admitted to have taken "unduly harsh and narrow views."

But quite apart from the actual personel of the Medical Board, it is always a difficult task to decide whether illness has been caused by any particular set of circumstances, or whether it would have developed in any event. In the event of a man between 40 and 50 years of age suffering from delusional insanity, to whose family the Medical Board refused a pension the other day, his wife was asked whether he was born at full time, whether instruments were used, and at what age he cut his teeth!

Quite naturally the information was not forthcoming.

Professions of sympathy, unbacked by deeds, are an insult, and a shame to those who utter them?

Mr. Forster put forward the astonishing pretence that pensions cannot be granted except where the Medical Board declares that the disease *is due* to the service under the terms of the Royal Warrant, but when he was asked who granted the Royal Warrant, he said it was done so long ago that he could not tell, but supposed it to have been done by the War Office of the time!

It is indeed an insult to the public intelligence to pretend that the War Office is unable either to ignore this out-of-date Royal Warrant, or to issue another in its place. But if a new Act of Parliament should be required, there is nothing to prevent its passage. Several Acts for securing more extended powers of punishing soldiers, sailors—and other people—have been passed during the war.

The Government refuses to assure to every soldier and sailor, as a right, compensation for death or disablement. To those whom the Medical Board may choose to rule out, the charity of the Statutory Committee is offered. The Statutory Committee is to pay the allowances and pensions of all relatives, other than wives and children of the men, as well as supplementary grants in certain favoured cases and pensions to those officers and men and their families in those cases where a State pension is refused. The Government has promised for all these purposes, only one grant of a million pounds—it would be folly to imagine that such a sum could meet the need.

The soldiers and sailors must understand that, to those who are in power, they are but the pawns in the game of war, and that when the powerful players have no further use for them, they must shift for themselves.—Well let them organise and do it!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A League of Rights deputation to the House of Commons is being arranged for Thursday, March 2nd.

Those wishing to join, should write to the League of Rights Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

In the House of Commons, on February 17th, Mr. Tennant stated that 12,000 of the 35,500 men discharged from the Army for disability, have received no pension. About 400 widows of soldiers have been ineligible for pensions.

THRIFT!

In moving the Address to the Throne, at the opening of Parliament on February 15th, Mr. MacPherson read a letter from General Wolfe to his mother, dated February, 1757, in which he urged her to interest herself "in behalf of the public as becomes a virtuous, good, disinterested lady," and to persuade her husband "to contribute all he possibly can to the defence of the Island—retrenching if need be his expenses, moderate as they are." Wolfe advised that his father should "lend three or four thousand pounds to the Government without any interest at all, or give it, since it is the savings of his salaries and the reward of his services."

This spirit is not common to-day—we commend it to Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, and other Cabinet Ministers, the Law Officers of the Crown, the Bishops, Peers and Capitalists!

The City Demand.

The *Manchester Guardian's* London Stock Exchange representative says that the City view is that the next War Loan, which may be expected shortly, must be issued free of income tax and at a higher rate of interest, in order that they may "rally to the support of the Loan with the same enthusiasm as they did to the last one."

The City is usually allowed to have its way, but the prospect is an appalling one for the rest of the community. By the sweat of their brow and dire privations the workers will have to pay the interest on the War Loan.

Contractors' Profits.

Colonel the Earl of Kerry stated in the House of Commons on February 21st that Messrs. R. Dickeson and Co., canteen contractors, add 17½ per cent. to the goods purchased by them before re-selling to the troops, that they charge 40s. per ton for swedes, which can be bought locally for 30s. per ton. He asked whether the leading partner of the firm is not a Member of the Board of Control.

Mr. Tennant denied the statement, and in the same breath pleaded ignorance as to whether Messrs. Dickeson were represented on the Board of Control.

Economy must be practised in instances like these before the Government appeals to those for whom economy means privation.

Economy for the Poor.

"The Countess of Eglinton referred to the dirt and carelessness of working-class women: We wonder how long it is since she washed a stair, and what like her house would be, if no slave from the working-class had touched it last year. Does her Ladyship wash her own clothes?" The *Glasgow Forward*.

The Retrenchment Committee proposes "drastic" economies in the administration of the Insurance Act.

The poor are always the ones on whom economy is practised.

THE PRO-GERMANS!

Notice at Messrs. Lyons & Co.—"To waste, is to be pro-German; so if you can't fight yourself, contribute your 'bit' by exercising economy and avoiding waste in business and in private life."

An example seems to be given by the firm in the 15s. a week salary paid to a waitress and interpreter, which was reported to us last summer!

WAR EXPENDITURE TO THE END OF 1915.

Great Britain	1,782,000,000
Germany	1,500,000,000
France	1,240,000,000

These figures were given in reply to questions in Parliament. It appears, therefore, that the expenditure of the Allies is much greater than that of the Central Powers.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE NETHERLANDS.

Votes for Women Made Constitutionally Possible, but Postponed.

On December 18th and 19th of last year the Women's Suffrage Union *(Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht)*, held its 22nd Annual Meeting in Groningen. For the first time in its history it had to discuss its action towards a Government Constitution Bill which dealt with the question of women's suffrage by removing existing obstacles in the constitution, which make it impossible for the legislators to grant votes to women in an ordinary Bill.

Of the 126 Societies affiliated to the Council, 92 had sent delegates and the animated discussions and crowded sessions were evidence of the keenness of the workers. By the constitution of the *Vereeniging* each society appoints one voting delegate who casts all the votes for her society.

As there was no election of Executive—half the members retire every second year—criticism took the form of a vote of want of confidence. The burning question was the action taken by the Executive in stating that, since the new Constitution Bill proposed to give votes to all men, they must interpret their demand for votes for women on the same terms as men, by asking that votes for all women should also be included in the Bill. After a long discussion the action of the Executive was upheld by 117 votes to 20, with three abstentions.

The Meeting resolved to hold a large outdoor demonstration in April.

Women Gain Support from Socialists and Radicals.

Every evening now the *Vereeniging* holds large crowded meetings in towns and villages throughout the country. Many new members are being enrolled. These are mostly women, the men being told that they can give practical help by bringing pressure on their local Parliament Members, whilst the women can very effectively help by joining the organisation and so proving that they want the vote. At Haarlem a few nights ago, 108 paying members were enrolled. At these meetings there is generally one and sometimes two, or even three, Members of Parliament, who belong either to the Social-Democrats, the Radicals or the Advanced Liberals.

For the first time the different Parliamentary political parties are inviting the Board of the *Vereeniging* to come and discuss the question with them. Already the board has been received by the Social-Democrats, the Radicals, the Roman Catholics and one of the branches of the Clerical Party. Formerly it saw only individual supporters. Many magazines and newspapers which had never taken an interest in the question before are now asking for Women's Suffrage articles.

Manifesto of the Netherland's National Council of Women, to the Members of the Cabinet, the Council of State and Both Houses of the Staaten-Generaal.

The National Council of Women is supporting the demand for the inclusion of women's active suffrage in the Constitution Bill now before the Staaten-Generaal, or Parliament, and has just addressed the following manifesto to the Second Chamber. It should be explained that the Memorie van Toelichting, mentioned in the manifesto, is the Government's official argument in favour of its Bill.

The National Council of Women of the Netherlands, which is made up of 34 societies, in extraordinary meeting assembled at the Hague, on January 27th, 1916, at the urgent request of its members, has the honour to bring the following to the knowledge of the Second Chamber of the Staaten-Generaal.

The International Council of Women, to which the Netherlands Council of Women belongs, has worked for many years for the introduction of Women's Suffrage.

1. The Netherlands National Council of Women wishes in the first place to express a word of thanks to the Government for giving special thought to this question in its Bill for the revision of the Constitution, and for having, in part at least, met the wishes of the women of the Netherlands.

The Council is grateful to note that Article 80 places on the legislature the duty of admitting women to the ballot box, and that the Netherlands Government recognises, to quote the *Memorie van Toelichting*, "that it is more advantageous than disadvantageous for a State that women should share in its management;" we see in this conviction the only just and in itself acceptable argument which is decisive for, or against, the introduction of Women's Suffrage.

The Council is more surprised that, in spite of this declaration, no guarantee is given in the Bill for the actual introduction of votes for women, indeed, the actual wording of Article 89 has the effect of making the practical application of the principle for an indefinite time, illusory. Besides, in additional Article 7 it is proposed to change the basis of the franchise by immediately giving universal suffrage to men—whereas the exclusion of women is continued; and the proposed Constitution at the same time fails to put any pressure on the legislator by suggesting that he should soon alter the basis of the franchise law so as to bring it into accordance with the new Constitution. . . .

Manhood Suffrage established for Men; Government suggests limited Franchise for Women!

In the second place the Council of Women is astonished that the Government should propose to leave to the legislator the solution of a problem, as it affects women, which the Government itself has declared "to be insoluble" in the case of men, namely, to find a criterion on which could be given a *limited* suffrage.

In the *Memorie van Toelichting* it is said:—

(a) That capacity and economic position—"the most recent expression of the idea which originally was the condition for the granting of the suffrage"—give no sufficient guarantee for the electoral capacity of the individual voter.

(b) But even the idea of combining the vote with special conditions must be given up, because the individuality of the voter has been lost in that of the masses; and because the value of the decision of the voter lies in the collective opinion "about principles of justice" and because "what one asks of the voters to-day is not the capacity to judge about different questions of government, but to take such interest in public affairs that he is able to judge about the programmes of the political parties and to make up his mind as to which political party he may wish to belong to."

(c) That, consequently, the exclusion of a part of the citizens from the right to vote has no justification and will divide the nation into two parts; the one, the governors; the other, the governed.

The consequences of such action have been recognised by the Government in the case of man suffrage. But, would not the consequences be the same if the action were taken with respect to woman suffrage? The Government, so far as appears from its present Bill, has answered this question in the negative, quoting the opinion of those who see in women's taking part in the life of the State, a weakening of their natural function.

But as this opinion must necessarily lead to maintaining the principle of the exclusion of women, the Women's Council thinks it necessary to say a word in vindication of their right.

It is of opinion that the question of what is women's calling, or vocation, in society can never be decided either by giving or withholding the vote. That depends on the development of internal forces, the growth of which cannot be kept back by the peremptory decree of an external power. On the contrary, taking part in government does not cause any change in the womanly function; but the great change which the position and work of women has undergone makes her demand with ever greater force a share in government and her rights as a citizen. The factors which affect a change in the function of woman are outside the sphere of the practical Statesman. He may refuse to recognise her development, but he cannot keep it back. He may stop the clock, but he cannot keep back time!

The Dutch Government says that the time for a decision on this question has not yet come.

The National Council of Women declares its conviction that the vocation of women in our common life (of which it recognises the great importance and special difficulties) need not be solved by the Government and cannot be solved by giving, or withholding, the vote; but that the question has advanced so far in this country that the introduction of woman suffrage can only be considered as the legal recognition of a phase in the development of our women, which is, in fact, already here.

The wish of the Government to meet the opponents of woman suffrage made it propose a solution, by which, whilst the constitutional exclusion of women is removed, the legislator is left full liberty to give the suffrage to women at such times and on such terms as he may decide. This proposal with its two sides satisfies neither party. . . .

As the Government has recognised the danger of dividing the population into governing and governed ("division leads political energy into revolutionary channels") they should also see the danger of excluding women. Society can only gain when the forces and energy of its women, which are now concentrated on the struggle for the vote, can be used along with the men's in finding a solution of the many social problems for which the insight of both is necessary.

On these grounds, the Netherlands' National Council of Women demands that the Constitutional Bill shall be so amended that the right of women to vote shall not only be accepted in principle, but that provision for its immediate practical application be introduced into the Constitution, so that women as well as men, may immediately be able to exercise this right.

THE HAGUE, January 27th, 1916.

The Executive Council,

H. VAN BIEMA-HIJMANS, President,
C. A. DE JONG VAN BEEK EN DONK-KLUYVER, Vice-President.
C. RAMONDT-HIRSCHMANN, 1st Secretary.
C. M. WERKER-BRAUJON, 2nd Secretary
M. C. REESSE, Treasurer,
W. VAN ITALLIE-VAN EMDEN,
W. ASSER-THORBECKE,
C. BAKKER-VAN BOSSE, member of the Committee on the Legal position of Women of the International Council of Women.
ALETTA H. JACOBS, member of the Woman Suffrage Committee of the International Council of Women.

POPLAR CHILDREN'S PARTY. - Bernard Shaw's Judgment.

I have to award the prize of 5s. to Miss Crutchfield, as she has not made a single mistake; and the rules must be kept. Her essay is so correct that I think she must have got the clergyman to write it for her. If so, she ought to go halves with him.

G. BERNARD SHAW.

ESSAY WHICH WON 5s. PRIZE.

On Saturday, January 22nd, the E.L.F.S. gave a party at the Town Hall to the children of the East End. As we filed in, a bag was given to us which contained cakes and fruit, and while we were taking our seats the violinists played. This being finished, a pretty dance was given by two girls which was well applauded. After the dance, a girl played a tune on the violin. Following this was a very pretty dance given by a little girl. It was done very gracefully, and she was applauded as she left the platform. Again we had a dance, but this time it was a tall girl who did graceful actions with a piece of pink muslin.

While this performance was proceeding, we had our tea which consisted of the contents of our bags, and cups of tea. Our violin entertainers again played to us and when they had finished they prepared to leave. It was then announced that we were going to see something to make us laugh.

A clown was then introduced. He played the "fairy bells" in imitation of church bells. He also played other tunes. After this was accomplished he told us that he would play the "Blue Bells of Scotland" with the violin in various positions.

This he did in the ordinary position, then with the violin in his mouth, and ended by putting the bow between his knees and playing in that position.

He called six boys up on the platform, and showed what they should do on entering school.

He then retired, and the next to appear was the marionettes. First of all they put up a kind of shop like a punch and judy show. The lights were then put out, and the show commenced by two marionettes appearing who sang some of the latest songs. Then they left the show to change their dress. They next appeared as two Scotchmen and while they sang a Scotch song they danced very prettily. Again one of them disappeared, and then came out dressed as an Irish girl, and while she was dancing the other performer went and changed into an Irishman. On appearing again they sang "When Irish eyes are smiling," and we joined in the chorus. After this they both left the show and appeared again as a sailor and a captain on a ship which rocked up and down as if it was on the sea. While in this attire they sang a few songs about sailors. The show then came to a close after which we gave three cheers for all the workers.

Father Christmas then appeared while we cheered him. He then apologised for coming after Christmas and told us how he came from the sky and had sent the toys before him. The toys were then distributed and we all went home feeling very happy.

ELLEN CRUTCHFIELD.
128 Kerbey Street, Poplar, E.

2 Miss RUBY DRAKE,
49 Crediton Rd., Tidal Basin, E.
In account with G. BERNARD SHAW.

Correcting one mistake in grammar ..	½d.
Altering "there" to "their" three times	½d.
Correcting wrong use of the word "ridicules"	1d.
	2d.

I award Miss Drake a special prize of 1d. for business-like and exact information as to who gave the party and what actually took place. So she has only 1d. to pay.

Feb. 13th, 1916. G. BERNARD SHAW.

3 Miss MUMFORD,
36 Northumberland St., Poplar.
In account with G. BERNARD SHAW.

Correcting four mistakes in grammar ..	2d.
" two " spelling ..	1d.
	3d.

I award Miss Mumford a special prize of 2d. for her careful and regular writing. So she has only 1d. to pay.

Feb. 13th, 1916. G. BERNARD SHAW.

4 Mr. J. HORNIBROOK,
42 Rook St., Poplar, E.
In account with G. BERNARD SHAW.

Correcting two mistakes in spelling Miss Pankhurst's name ..	2d.
" two ordinary mistakes in spelling	1d.
" three mistakes in grammar	1½d.
Supplying one word omitted	½d.
	5d.

I award Mr. Hornibrook a special prize of 4d. for putting all the go he had into the songs. So he has only 1d. to pay.

Feb. 13th, 1916. G. BERNARD SHAW.

5 Mr. J. DRAKE, 49 Crediton Rd.
In account with G. BERNARD SHAW.

Correcting four mistakes in grammar ..	2d.
" three " spelling ..	1½d.
Altering "their" to "there"	½d.
Soap to clean up after reading Mr. Drake's essay, as it was so untidy ..	1d.
	5d.

I award Mr. Drake a special prize of 4d. for family feeling, as he did not forget his little sister, and Aunt Emily, and Ruby, and Francis and Dad. He has, therefore, only 1d. to pay.

Feb. 13th, 1916. G. BERNARD SHAW.

6 Miss MOLLY BEER,
9 Brabazon St., Upper North St., Poplar.
In account with G. BERNARD SHAW.

Correcting two mistakes in grammar ..	1d.
Striking out two apostrophes put before "s" when there was nothing belonging	½d.
Completing the word "affectionately" as it was written "affec."	1d.
Counting 22 kisses for Miss Pankhurst ..	1½d.
	4d.

I award Miss Beer a special prize of 3d. for laziness. She was in such a hurry to get into bed that she wrote the shortest essay, and signed herself "Yours affec." to save the trouble of writing "tionately." So she has only 1d. to pay.

Feb. 13th, 1916. G. BERNARD SHAW.

7 Mr. ALBERT MABBOTT.
In account with G. BERNARD SHAW.

Correcting one mistake in grammar ..	½d.
Striking out four words repeated ..	1½d.
	2d.

I have given so many special prizes that I cannot afford any more; but as Mr. Mabbot's handwriting is so easy to read, and so square and regular, and his description of the party is excellent, I will let him off half of my bill; so he will have only 1d. to pay.

Feb. 13th, 1916. G. BERNARD SHAW.

Mr. G. Bernard Shaw has very kindly awarded a special prize of 1s. 6d. to each of the above.

AN INDIAN PLAY

Spoken in English by Indian players.
Arranged by K. N. DAS GUPTA.

BOW BATHS HALL, Roman Rd.,
(No. 8 Bus from Liverpool Street)

Saturday, March 4th, at 8 p.m.
Doors open at 7.30.

In aid of the E.L.F.S. Babies' Milk Fund.

Indian Music. English Words. Gorgeous Costumes. A Feast of Colour. Tickets 1s., 6d. and 3d., from 106 Cadogan Terrace, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow; 20 Railway Street, Poplar; 55 Fife Road, Canning Town. Buy your tickets early as they are going fast!

CORRECTIONS.

Instead of "2s. a week" read 2s. a day, in column 2, page 426; and Synge instead of "Singe" on pages 426 and 427 in the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT of February 19th.

WILL anyone willing to start Local Committees, hold meetings, or distribute literature for "Stop the War," in Kent, Surrey or Sussex (outside the London area), write to CLARA COLE, 85 Camberwell Grove, London, S.E.

THE ATTACK BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON THE REFUGEE RUSSIAN SEAMEN'S UNION.

By Mrs. Bridges Adams.

As the Dreadnought is much read in Dockland, I am glad of this opportunity of bringing before its readers a few facts relating to the attack made by the British Authorities on a poor and refugee Trade Union, which after the fall of Antwerp removed its headquarters from that city to London, because in the words of its secretary, Mr. Anitchkine, its executive "Trusted Britain."

On Monday, December 20th, 1915, three police raids under warrants issued by the "competent military authority" took place simultaneously at the office of the Russian Seamen's Union, at the residence of the secretary and at the lodgings of Mr. G. Tchitcherine (Hon. Secretary of the Russian Political Prisoners and Relief Committee in London), which has its headquarters at Bebel House, the latter being questioned by the "raiders" on matters concerning the Russian Seamen's Union, with which he has no connection. Official papers and documents and private letters were taken away in the three cases. Mr. Anitchkine was told that he would be left free until after the holidays, when the police would arrest him or not, according to what they found in his papers. Needless to say all this was a severe blow to the work of the Union, and it is not surprising that Mr. Anitchkine's health has, in consequence of the worry and anxiety, suffered very seriously.

Mr. Tchitcherine, Mr. Anitchkine and myself determined that steps must be taken to bring this outrage to the notice of the rank and file of the organised workers of Britain. Therefore Mr. Anitchkine wrote an "Open Letter to Trade Unionists," and I made arrangements for its distribution to delegates at the Labour Conference on Conscription on January 6th. However, on the night of January 5th about 30 minutes after the arrival at Bebel House of the parcels containing the copies of the "open letter" five representatives of the law appeared armed with a warrant issued by "the competent military authority" and seized the parcels and also official leaflets and papers of the Russian Political Prisoners and Relief Committee, taking away also 1,000 copies of the financial statement.

Readers of the Dreadnought will no doubt be interested to learn that while three men were deemed sufficient for each of the other three raids it took five to undertake the task in my case—and as I looked at those men, engaged in the arduous task of reading an old woman's letters, I thought of the shortage of labour, which we are assured renders necessary a still greater number of child workers.

Thus the "open letter" was not distributed to the delegates, and the "Labour" members of the Government who were present, possibly for that reason, escaped some unpleasant questions.

In the luncheon interval, I wrote a note addressed to the secretaries and the chairman of the conference, and in the afternoon from my place in the gallery, I saw it handed to and opened by Mr. Bowerman, who showed it to the chairman, Mr. Gosling, and also to the other secretary, the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P. Not one of them said a word, although I had enclosed a copy of the "open letter" and asked them to draw attention to the facts they knew so well. It will be noticed that the same silence, so convenient and so sheltering to the "competent military authority," and all that this term implies is still being observed by "Leaders." A few rank and file people tried to secure a reference to the matter at the Bristol Conference, but without success. In the House of Commons, as far as I can learn, only two questions have been put, one by Mr. Joseph King and the other by Sir Wm. P. Byles. But throughout the country in the branches of the Trade Unions, the question, together with the great issues involved, is being widely discussed—and we now hope that the Labour organisations in the East End of London will take up the matter in a determined manner.

Emphasis should be given to the following points:—

(1) That the Russian Seamen's Union is prohibited in Russia.

(2) That among the papers seized at the Union offices were some containing the names of people *in Russia* who are members of or sympathisers with the Union.

(3) That unorganised Russian sailors in various parts of the world are frequently employed by agents of the great shipping companies as "strike breakers." This is made possible by reason of the fact that those seamen are ignorant of the conditions of the countries concerned. The Russian Seamen's Union is a protection to such sailors.

(4) That (as may be seen in the Russian Supplement of the *Times*) between the Russian Government and British capitalism a powerful economic alliance is being built up, which will enable British capitalism to obtain profitable return for its investments in Russia; and that in the British House of Commons British capitalism, including of course the great shipping interests, is the dominating force.

(5) That if representatives of the Russian Government can obtain from the British Government safe hospitality and liberal financial assistance for their Government in Russia, then British Trade Unionism must protect the poor and the refugee Russian Seamen's Union from attacks under warrants issued by that all-powerful body.

PEOPLE IN GLASS-HOUSES!

"England and her Allies together can secure the peace of the world . . . . . .

"Why, there are only two men in the world who have perfectly understood humanity—an Englishman and a Russian . . . . .

"The Germans have a guilty conscience they have burned cities, towns and villages . . . They have driven vast numbers of people into exile. Ah, how merciless, how cruel, how brutal, how ferocious they have been . . . . . England, France and Russia are responsible now for the future of Europe, which means the future of civilisation, the fate of the world. We can, and we shall destroy Prussianism . . . . .

"Nothing is so unlovely as self-esteem, vanity, self-righteousness."—M. Sazonoff, the Russian Foreign Minister.

LORD BRYCE IN PARIS.

"There will not and cannot be any separate peace. No free nation can make any compromise with a Government like that of Germany. A Europe at peace cannot co-exist with such a Government."

Yes, Prussianism is objectionable; but why do we imitate it?

POLISH MISERY.

Polish News quotes from the Russian paper *Kijevskaia Mysl*, stories of the misery of Polish migrants and exiles in Russia. On the banks of the Volga they are even reduced to digging shelters in the earth; and it is said that "the overcrowding of these caves, unfit for human habitation, causes disease and dreadful mortality." Refugees are housed in an agricultural implement makers' store, in Orenburg, and six deaths a day are said to be usual there.

Russia v. Poland.

Polish News states that Mr. Chwostow, Russian Minister of the Interior, Mr. Charitonow, Controller General of the Russian Treasury, Mr. Bark, Russian Minister of Finance, and Count Ignatjew, Russian Minister of Public Instruction, have refused to assent to the removal of any of the disabilities of the Poles in Russia.

Kijew, a Russian conservative newspaper, expresses the view that the Ministry of the Interior has acted wisely in refusing to discuss the matter of giving the Poles equal rights with the Russians, and says: "Probably after the War it will be necessary, not only to retain the past restrictions, but to introduce new ones as well."

Germany v. Poland.

Polish News states that in Germany there are two parties, that which *advocates*, and that which *opposes* annexation of the conquered territories. The Kaiser and Bethmann-Hollweg are said to oppose annexation, and to desire to set up a seventh power, to be called "the Confederation of the Western Slavs." The Poles would furnish one-third of the population of this new State, the Ruthenians and Lithuanians the remainder; its population would be from 40 to 50 millions. This Kingdom would have its own Parliament, but would "enter into close economic union with Germany and Austria." "These plans," says *Polish News*, "show on what lines German thought runs."

The National Council Against Conscription.

President: ROBERT SMILLIE

INVITES

1. THE AFFILIATION of all organisations opposed to Conscription.
2. IMMEDIATE OFFERS OF HELP in the work of advising applicants for exemption and of attending the courts to watch the administration of the Act by individuals and organisations in every part of Great Britain.
3. APPLICATIONS FOR ADVICE from all claiming exemptions of any kind who are not already in touch with similar organisations.

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
National Council Against Conscription,
18 Bride Lane, LONDON, E.C.

Watchers for East London Tribunals, should write to us at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

SAFETY ON SEA

Do not let your

MEN

uselessly risk their lives at Sea.

BUY THEM

"BODDY"

WAISTCOATS,

Price - - 15s.

300 lives saved from

"LUSITANIA."

ALSO LIVES SAVED FROM—

"Falaba" "Royal Edward"
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H.M.S. "Majestic."

"BODDY" WAISTCOATS KEEP THE WEARER SAFE even though helpless or unconscious, since the wearer is automatically turned to a backward position, with the head well above water.

No inflation required. No danger from defective valves or perished rubber.

Equally suitable for both sexes. Obtainable at the principal shops in London and Provinces, or from—

BODDY LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES (1914), Ltd.,
4 Broad Street Place, London, E.C.

Deal with our Advertisers; - -
They help the "Dreadnought."

RENT ACT DEFIED.

Continued from front page.

Road. He put up the rent of No. 20 from 5s. 6d. to 7s. eight months ago, when a new tenant came in; the tenants of some of the neighbouring houses are still paying 5s. 6d. The tenant of No. 20 has promised to protest against the increase next Monday.

Thomas Young has also increased the rents of his houses in Wedderburn Road, from 5s. 6d. to 7s., and the tenants paid the extra for 28 weeks, but now refuse. In raising the rent Young sent in a bill in which it was stated that the increase in rent was due to increased road charges, water rate, etc., but the statements that he makes in the bill are said by local residents to be incorrect.

At the rear of the back yards of the houses in Wedderburn Road, is a plot of building land belonging to Thomas Young. A short time ago Young moved the palings of these backyards, so that they encroached a few feet on to this plot of ground, and told the tenants that he was giving them this extra ground freely for a time, as he would not be building on the plot during the War. The tenants did not ask for this extra ground space, but it is believed that Mr. Young intends to plead that he has improved the property, should he be prosecuted for raising the rents.

In Kempton Road, East Ham, the houses consist of two self-contained flats. The pre-war rent was 6s., but the rents have been raised to 6s. 6d. when new tenants come in. Some tenants are paying as much as 7s. for these houses.

Another Barking landlord who has put up his rents is Glenny, House Agent, East Street, Barking, who has four houses in Kennedy Road, the rents of which have been raised from 8s. to 8s. 6d.

We understand that a demonstration of protest against the rent raising is to be held shortly.

The law-breaking landlords of Barking and East Ham will certainly find that they have met their match!

A BIRMINGHAM CASE.

176, Mary Vale Road,
Bournville, Birmingham.
Feb, 20, 1916.

Dear Dreadnought,

A woman came to me to-day asking for advice. She has lived in a house for nine years. When she took the place the rent was 7s. 6d. per week, soon after it was raised to 8s. per week.

In May last the landlords (a powerful company who own hundreds of houses in this district) advanced the rent to 9s. per week, which the tenant paid until the end of December last.

In January of this year she refused to pay the extra 1s. per week. Nothing had been done in the way of necessary repairs.

Question: Is she entitled to demand the return of the extra 1s. per week that she paid from the date that the Act came into force until the end of December?

Also please give actual date when the Rent Act came into force.

I am, &c.,
P. H. Durant.

SAVE LAUNDRY BILLS

BY USING

Everclean Collars.

Always Clean and Smart.

Cannot be distinguished from ordinary linen Collars.

Do not limp or fray.

The best and most durable Collar ever made.

No Rubber.

Ink and Stain-Proof.

Can be wiped clean with a damp cloth.

Four EVERCLEAN Collars will last a year.

Special Sample Prices—2 Sample Collars for 2/6.
6 " " " 6/-.
Fronts 1/6 each. Cuffs 1/6 per pair.

Invaluable to those who travel, and for every day work. *Order at once.*

WM. ARTHUR & Co.,
147 Holborn Bars, London, E.C.
AGENTS WANTED. WRITE FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Very unpleasant revelations of the incompetence and extravagance of Government departments have been made in Parliament this week during the debates on the air-raids, the control of shipping, and the Vote of Credit.

Mr. Balfour, as First Lord of the Admiralty, figured largely in the first two of these debates, and the outstanding feature of his speeches was the perpetual disclaiming of responsibility for anything and everything. He would have us believe, it seems, that all shortcomings are due to the previous Liberal Government, or to the fact that the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and others in the Cabinet are still called Liberals. He is evidently preparing for the sham battles there will be at the next General Election. For our part, we can see no political difference between the Members of the Cabinet—they appear to us all equally determined to serve the interests of the possessing classes at the expense of the poor.

Mr. Peto and others revealed such facts as that the freightage of coal from Cardiff to Genoa was 7s. a ton before the war, and is now more than 100s., but Mr. Balfour (Tory) and Mr. Runciman (Liberal), both declared that the Government can do nothing to fix maximum freight charges, because if maximum rates were fixed for British shipping, the shippers of the Allied nationalities (the ships of the Central Powers are swept from the ocean) would still be able to go on fleecing the public of this country, and of the allied and neutral nations. This. it is said, would not be "*fair*" to British shippers. Such reasoning might be extended to every class of crime, even to murder and cannibalism! But if Great Britain would lead the way in limiting freight charges, she could certainly induce her Allies to follow suit.

In introducing the Government's demand for another Vote of Credit, this time for £420,000,000, Mr. Asquith, as was pointed out by Mr. Lough, again used the opposite tactic to that employed by Mr. Balfour. Mr. Lough said: "My complaint against the Prime Minister is that when he finds any of his colleagues have a leaky vessel in which they are going to bring up some proposal to Parliament, instead of saying to them 'get your vessel repaired and bring it up in proper form,' he says '*I* will bring it before the House.'" As Mr. Lough and other Members clearly showed, the Government has so wrapped up the brief statements of expenditure, which it has seen fit to present to Parliament, that the power of the House of Commons to exercise financial control, has been completely destroyed. Amongst the cases of extravagant waste and jobbery cited, was that of six soldiers, two non-commissioned officers, a lady typist, and a machine for packing hay which waited a fortnight at a little wayside station where no hay came. We wish, by the way, that the paymasters might have typists. Their crabbed writing, written in faint pencil, is almost illegible. There was also the story of farmers horses being ordered to leave the sowing fields to take hay to a station where hundreds of Army motor lorries stood idle, and thousands of Army horses were exercised daily.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Dear Editor,—Can you let me know if a woman who is over 70 years of age, who applied for her pension eight weeks ago, i.e. as soon as she reached her 70th birthday, is entitled to the accumulated money of the past eight weeks, during which she has had to wait for her claim to be substantiated?

Yours truly—MURIEL LESTER.

[We are sorry to say that, according to Mr. Long's interpretation, Section 5 (2) of the Old Age Pensions Act, 1908, provides that a pension shall not be paid until the first Friday after the claim for the pension is allowed. This means that however long the authorities may take to investigate the claim, the applicant must wait without pension until the investigation is complete, and can get no arrears. Pension claims may however, be sent in four months before the applicant is 70. Apply early. — *Editor* WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.]

THE PASSING OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENTS.

On February 16th Mr. Asquith moved a resolution which suspended the right of private Members of Parliament to introduce Bills until the House should otherwise determine, or, in other words, until the Government should see fit. Similar resolutions have been passed each session since War began, but hitherto the right of private Members has been suspended only for a specified time. Eventually the Prime Minister agreed to modify this resolution so that it should only apply until March 31st. This was in response to many energetic protests against the curtailment of private Members' rights. As Sir Henry Dalziel justly complained, Members of the House of Commons are deprived of rights, which are still open to the House of Lords. And yet we have a Prime Minister who secured his position by the campaign cries: "Down with the House of Lords" and "the people's will shall prevail." It was pointed out that Mr. W. C. Anderson has drafted a Bill for the conscription of wealth and is unable to introduce it, also that many Members have strong views on such questions as the setting aside of the *Habeas Corpus* Act by the Defence of the Realm Act; naval and military pensions; and a moratorium for the men called to the colours under the Military Service Act, a provision made by Germany, France and every other conscriptionist country. Mr. Whitehouse very wisely urged that "it is to the advantage of the Government itself to have presented to it, in printed and considered form, the deliberate judgment, on important questions, of great bodies of opinion outside the House." Such appeals fell on deaf ears. The Prime Minister replied that the Members of Parliament who had protested were "wanting in perspective" and that "the country does not want a mass of private Members' legislation put upon the table." So the gagging of Parliament proceeds apace!

CAREFULLY "SELECTED."

The Berkshire Committee of Women and Farm Labour has organised a scheme to conduct a small party of "*selected working women*" to France, to let them see how French women are doing agricultural work whilst the men are fighting.

The party consists of the following:—

Miss La Mothe, Board of Trade.
Miss Gladys Pott, Anti-Suffrage Leader and Treasurer, Berkshire Committee.
Mrs. Boyce, an advocate of Tariff Reform.
Mrs. N. Stocks, Reading Women's Liberal Association.
Mrs. Saint, Staffordshire Education Committee.
Miss Chillingworth, farmer's daughter, of Bradfield, Berks.
Mrs. Sunderland, Women's Farm and Garden Union, London.
Professor Salmon, University College, Reading.

Those selected do not seem to us to be typically working-class women!

Miss Gladys Pott is in charge of the party.

The *Daily Chronicle* states that in Norfolk 2,000 women have registered for agricultural employment, and that the greater part of them are already at work. "*For those capable of doing ordinary work, 2s. a day is being paid.*"

If 12s. a week is the wage of the *capable*, what is the wage of the *in*capable? Capable women will rapidly become incapable, if they have to exist on such a sweated wage!

L.C.C. CHARWOMEN.

The London Teachers held a large protest meeting at the Memorial Hall on Saturday.

It was stated that amongst the specially trained teachers there was a charwoman. No one can object to a charwoman "bettering" herself but why at the expense of little children? A woman must be trained for this job like any other!

Mrs. A. L. Sandford denounced the L.C.C. scheme of introducing unqualified teachers as "an insidious attempt to introduce cheap labour of an inefficient kind into the schools."

The *Berliner Tageblatt* reports that a large number of petitions has been sent to the Reichstag and the Prussian Diet in favour of Peace.

THE WIDOW'S CASE.

DEAR EDITOR,

Since I heard you speak at Stirchley about the E.L.F.S. in East London I have been thinking how nice it would be if something of that kind could be taken up round these districts.

Please do not think I feel envy for those who have been deprived of their dear ones through this terrible war, because I think it is only right that every care should be shown them and those depending on them. Only it seems to me that before the war there were, and there still are, thousands of women, who after the death of their husbands have no notice taken of their circumstances and are even refused help by the Guardians, if it is thought that they are able to work to get enough to linger on with.

You spoke of women being afraid to organise in case of being dismissed. I should like to put a case before you concerning a few who are employed at Bournville Works as charwomen, and you must know that it is very much harder to clean in a factory than in a private house. These women are paid at the rate of 4½d per hour with one meal a day, which is their dinner. The hours are from nine o'clock till 5.30, with one hour's rest for dinner, for which no time is paid. On Saturdays they work from 7.45 till 4.15 with half-an-hour unpaid for dinner.

These women once asked for a small rise on certain cleaning which made it necessary to work on Fridays until 9.15 p.m., getting no extra for overtime, but only 4½d. per hour.

The directors refused it, and even took some of the light work away from them and engaged married women instead.

It was impossible for me to get them to join the Workers' Union as this treatment had crushed them so, and they were told to go if dissatisfied. A small allowance of 2s. and 4s. from the Emergency Fund has been given these charwomen. They have had no war bonus. This is like giving charity to their employers who ought to pay them a living wage. Help is needed as urgently for them as for any war widows or dependants.—Yours, &c.,

A WORKING WOMAN.

OVERWORK.—UNDERPAY.

Miss Mary Macarthur reports that in one factory in Scotland, women were working 83 hours a week at 2½d. an hour, and in hand-grenade work, in an English factory, women were earning 15s. a week by working for 2½d. an hour. Of course, all the usual regulations as to hours and conditions were in abeyance, and at a certain northern works, a day-shift stopped at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday and began again at 6.30 on Sunday morning.

As it took some of the women 1½ hours to reach their homes, they had only about three hours' sleep, and yet the firm complained that they lost time in the morning. She was glad to say that that state of things had now been put a stop to.

In one case girls of 13 were working from 7 in the morning till 9 at night.

Miss Macarthur says that when she pointed out to a Scottish employer that the women were not receiving the same piece-rates as the men, he replied that he dared not pay them the same, because, as their output was so much better than the men's, if they were paid the same they would be earning £13 a week.

Mrs. Flora Annie Steel in the *Daily News* with reference to the employment of women, stated:—"That dozens of women clerks are out of work because they demand more than 25s. a week, and that women over 40 who ask a man's minimum, viz., £2 a week, have no chance of employment." She adds that in munition factories in Manchester the £1 a week is only paid by five firms; the average wage, plus overtime and war bonus is 18s. Many girls get from 7s. to 9s.

COST OF LIVING.

Prices in West Ham.

Prices of food and other commodities largely used in working class families:—

	Before the War.	Present prices, Feb. 21.
	s. d.	s. d.
Tea, ordinary Indian, lb.	1 4	2 0
Sugar, white granulated, lb.	0 1½	0 4½
,, brown, lb.	0 1½	0 4½
Jam, not in jars, lb.	0 2½	0 6
Treacle, not in jars, lb.	0 2½	0 4
Syrup (Lyles), 2 lb. tins	0 3½	0 9½
Butter, lb.	1/- 1 2	1/4 1 6
Margarine, lb. cheapest used to be	0 5	0 7
,, other prices	6d., 0 8	8d., red., 1/-
Milk, condensed, Double Cross brand, tin	0 3½	0 6½
,, cows, skimmed, quart	0 2½	0 5
,, ordinary, quart	0 4	0 8
Bread, quartern (2 loaves)	0 5	0 9½
Flour, self-raising, quartern	0 5½	0 9½
Cheese, lb.	0 7	1 0
Bacon, lb. (cut in rashers)	0 8	1 0
,, (cooked)	0 10	1 6
Meat, lb. (pieces for stewing)	0 3½	0 7
Ham, lb.	1/2, 1 4	1/8, 2 0
Rabbits, wild, each	7d., 0 8	1 6
,, lb.	0 3½	0 8
,, Ostend, lb.	6½d., 0 7	1/-, 1 1
Sausages, Beef & Pork, lb.	4d., 6d., 0 6	6d., 8d., 1/-
Fish (for boiling), Hake, Cod, Conger Eel, lb.	0 2½	9d., 0 10
Skate		1 0
Kippers, pair	0 1½	0 5
Bloaters, each	½d., 0 1	2d., 0 3
Haddocks (small), each	0 1	3d., 0 5
Lentils, pint	0 2½	0 4
Split Peas	0 1½	0 4
Haricot Beans, quart	0 2½	6d., 0 8
Coals & Coke, cwt.	1 2	1/9, 1 10
Sunlight Soap, lb. bar	0 3	0 4½
Soda	10 lbs. 0 3	lb. 0 1
Rice, lb.	0 1½	0 3
Currants	0 2½	0 5

Boots have increased 1s. per pair; better quality more in proportion. Repairs, 6d. to 9d. pair.

Board of Trade.

The Board of Trade has issued the following table, showing the percentage of increase in food prices, in the United Kingdom, since July, 1914:

Articles.	Percentage Increase since July, 1914. Large Towns.	Small Towns & Villages.	United Kingdom.
Beef, British—			
Ribs	37	34	36
Thin Flank	54	40	47
Beef, Imported—			
Ribs	53	47	50
Thin Flank	71	61	66
Mutton British—			
Legs	29	30	29
Breast	53	36	44
Mutton, Frozen—			
Legs	49	43	46
Breast	76	64	70
Bacon (streaky)	35	29	32
Fish	126	85	106
Flour (households)	55	61	58
Bread	56	46	51
Tea	49	48	48
Sugar (granulated)	107	100	103
Milk	31	29	30
Potatoes	2	7	3
Margarine	12	9	10
Butter—			
Fresh	31	36	33
Salt	28	32	30
Cheese	37	37	37
Eggs (fresh)	74	65	70
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES	49	44	47

The German Socialists threaten that if food prices rise much further the workers will be forced to strike as a last resource.

The *Tribuna* blames the British and all the Allied Governments for the phantastic increase in freights.

MUNITIONEERS.

The Manchester woman munitioneer, whose case we reported some time ago as earning 13s. 1d. for a 61½ hour's week, we now learn has unusual skill at machines, having worked them since her fourteenth year. She has also studied books on applied mechanics.

She was sent back to her employers by the Manchester Tribunal, but chose to leave, and is now idling for six weeks — as the Munitions Act requires — until she automatically comes into possession of the certificate of discharge, which the Tribunal denied her.

Skilled labour is at a premium! This case does not prove it.

The *Daily Express* says that women "must be taught a trade or a profession, and be given the power to be independent. 'Man for the field, and woman for the hearth, is nowadays mere sentimental humbug.' Is there not here a timely opportunity for Government investigation and leading?"

Does the *Express* advocate Votes for Women?

Mr. Lloyd George's latest announcement with regard to women munitioneers is: That where a woman performs part of the work previously done by a skilled man, she is not entitled to receive the full district rate usually paid to men.

This is the loophole which the "dilution" scheme leaves; the division of labour can always be so arranged that women never do exactly the same work as the men whom they replace.

The National Federation of Women Workers is to be congratulated on securing from Messrs. Vickers, Ltd, an increased wage for the members of the federation engaged on the making of shells. The women are now to get £1 3s. 9d. for a 45 hours week, an advance of 5s. 9d. on their previous wage.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

OBJECTS: To secure the Parliamentary Vote for every Woman over 21, and to promote the Social and Industrial Welfare of Women.

Entrance Fee...1d. Subscription...1d. a Month

BRANCH REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD.

Secretary: MISS LYNCH.

Miss Smyth and Mrs. Eglinton were the speakers on Tuesday afternoon. In response to an appeal by Miss Smyth several members took *Dreadnoughts* to sell. On Sunday morning a very successful meeting was held at Osborne St.—Mrs. Boyce was the speaker—170 *Dreadnoughts* were sold. Miss Bennett, Miss Kiley and Miss Vine are thanked for selling. Miss Bailey took the chair at Morpeth St. on Saturday. Mrs. Cressall was the speaker at Osborne St. on Sunday.

The Sunday evening meeting was fairly well attended. Mrs. Drake was in the chair, and Lady Margaret Sackville's address was listened to with great attention. Miss C. Lagsding, Mr. Chandler, Miss P. Lagsding and Mr. Drake sang and played.

A good meeting was held at Hyde Park on Sunday—Mrs. Leigh Rothwell and Miss Somers were the speakers; 53 papers were sold. Self-Denial Meeting in Victoria Park, Sunday afternoon, 3 p.m., 27th inst. Members are reminded of the Conference on Saturday afternoon at Bow Baths.

Collections at open-air meetings—10s. 9d. *Dreadnought* sales week ending Feb. 19th—1,003. Miss O'Brien 230, Miss Lynch 205, Mrs. Holloway 201, Mrs. Greer 58, Miss Smyth 57, Mrs. Bird 40, Mrs. Savoy 24, Mrs. Farrall 20, Mrs. Eglinton 18. General Sales 150.

BROMLEY.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. MANTLE, 53 St. Leonard Street.

Dreadnought sales, per Mrs. Payne—115.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.

Secretary: MRS. DRAKE.

Miss Somers and Mr. Fuller were our speakers on Sunday, Feb. 6th, and Miss Dorothy Matthew kindly obliged by reciting. Mr. Chandler is thanked for singing. Miss Lynch and Miss Price spoke at two good open-air meetings in Chrisp St. on the following Monday and Wednesday. Miss Gore Booth was the speaker on Friday afternoon. On Sunday, 20th inst., an excellent meeting was held, when Mr. C. H. Norman spoke on the "Crimes of the Government," and a good discussion followed. There is still room at the indoor meetings for more friends and sympathisers, and all members are asked to make a special effort to bring a friend with them. Very good work has been done by members this week, canvassing the members with the Agendas and Tickets for the Self-Denial Social we are having in aid of the E.L.F.S. funds. Miss Morley, Miss Dent, Miss K. Lagsding, Miss Phoebe Lagsding, Miss T. Barker, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Coe, Mrs. Nason, and Miss Thornton are thanked very much indeed for this work. The Conference at the Bow Baths will be on Saturday, Feb. 26th, instead of the 27th. Every member is urged to come.

Collections—Miss Morley and Miss K. Lagsding 9s. 11d. and 9s. 3d., Miss E. Lagsding 5s. 9d. and 4s. 3½d., Mrs. Drake 9s. and 7s. 3½d. Donation—C. H. Norman 2s.

Nurse Connolly reports that the attendance of mothers and babies at the Clinic is steadily increasing. Last week 88 mothers and babies, and at the previous consultation 106 mothers and babies. The cost of medicines is also steadily increasing, every fresh supply costing more, and she would be glad of donations towards these.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Feb. 19th—220.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin: 55 FIFE ROAD.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS.

Our indoor speakers have been Mrs. Bouvier and Miss Lynch, and Mrs. Walker has spoken at an open air meeting. Several new members have joined lately. A tea party is being arranged, so members please come to 55 Fife Rd. to hear all our plans. All members are thanked for helping at party, also Mr. W. Barritt and Mr. Broadbear. We also thank friends who came to entertain the children.

Milk collection—Miss Beamish 1s.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Feb. 19th—169. Miss Beamish 96, Mrs. Vine 30, Miss Smyth 29.

The case of using drugs, when forcibly feeding some of the Suffragettes in Holloway, was brought up again on Wednesday, Feb. 16th.

Dr. Frank Moxon, who wrote articles stating that drugs had been administered, was charged with libel. He is now in France, and owing to his absence the case was postponed till the first day of July.

SUNDAY MEETING—Mar. 5th, at 7.30

POPLAR WORKER'S HALL.

Speaker—MISS VERGEROVA. "The Russian Woman."

Chair—MISS PANKHURST. Admission 2d

A MODEL LAUNDRY.—Family work a speciality. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collection; prompt delivery.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Reynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT, c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

When the European War commenced in August, 1914, the Central Headquarters of our Society suspended activities, greatly to the regret of our Branch; we of the North London Branch felt very strongly that it was of the utmost importance that we should continue to keep the flag flying.

Ever since September, 1914, our Society has been conducting a vigorous propaganda campaign, commencing by several successful meetings in Regents Park, after which we decided to hold meetings every Sunday afternoon in Finsbury Park. These meetings have been held on practically every Sunday since, in addition to several meetings we have held at Highbury Corner and in the East End. We have sold the *Dreadnought* at these meetings; the average number we now sell being from 30 to 40 copies per week.

Several of our members refused to sign the National Register, as a protest against the refusal of the Government to enfranchise women.

In January, 1915, we had a very successful Social in the Argyle Hall, and in March a Public Meeting in Highbury Hall. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Victor Duval, Mr. S. Franklin. In July we held Public Meetings in the Highbury Hall and Finsbury Park.

On several occasions our members have lobbied the House of Commons to demand an immediate Government measure of Votes for Women, and have interviewed several M.P.s. We have also spoken and paraded for the E.L.F.S. at their meetings in the East End.

Among those to whom we are especially grateful are Rev. F. Swan, for kindly allowing our correspondence to be sent to Balmes Rd., and Rev. C. Wills and Rev. C. Isherwood, two of the few clergymen who have done their duty by supporting and suffering for our essentially religious cause; both of whom, we are proud to say, have accepted parishes in North London, and have spoken for us during the past year.

In addition to our own meetings, our Society has co-operated with the E.L.F.S. and other Suffrage Societies in several big demonstrations in Trafalgar Square, Victoria Park, and Hyde Park. Several of our speakers have also spoken and paraded for the E.L.F.S. at their meetings in the East End.

NORTH LONDON MEN'S POLITICAL UNION FOR WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT.

Balance Sheet, Year ending Jan. 15th, 1916.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Sydney Franklin.

RECEIPTS.	£	s	d
To Social, Argyle Hall, Jan. 15th, 1915—Sale of Tickets	3	5	0
„ Highbury Hall Meeting, Mar. 26th—Sale of Tickets	3	5	0
„ Meeting, Highbury Hall, July 13th—Sale of Tickets	1	5	6
„ Collection... ...	0	10	3
„ Sale of Literature	0	1	8
„ Members' Subs.	0	3	0
Total receipts	£6	10	5

EXPENSES.	£	s	d
By Hire of Halls ...	1	18	0
„ Printing	0	14	6
„ W.S.P.U., N.L. Branch	0	13	0
„ Postage	0	7	0
„ E.L.F.S.	0	7	0
„ Sec. Expenses	0	8	0
„ Hire of Lorry	0	7	6
„ Sundries	0	10	5
	5	5	5
Cash in hand	1	5	0
	£6	10	5

AN UNCHRISTIAN BISHOP.

At the Upper House of Convocation, on February 7th, the Archbishop of Canterbury moved a resolution stating that "the principles of morality forbid a policy of reprisal, which has, as a deliberate object, the killing or wounding of non-combatants." The Archbishop said "there is danger that the moral currency may be debased."

The Bishop of Bangor moved the previous question. He did not think the resolution "quite wise." If any boy of his were asked to go on a punitive expedition over German towns, and consulted him about it, he should certainly advise him to go and do his duty.

The Archbishop's resolution was carried, nem. con.

WARTIME FREEDOM.

Mr. Samuel also stated in reply to Mr. Ginnell that 17 British-born subjects, and 19 persons who have been naturalised, are now interned in this country.

Rosa Luxemburg, the well-known German Socialist, has just been released from prison, where she was kept for eleven months because of her work for peace and against militarism.

On February 17th, in the House of Commons, Mr. Snowden protested against the breaking-up of public meetings by organised bodies of people; and the internment of Peter Petroff, a Russian.

Mr. Samuel stated that the law with regard to breaking up meetings, was the same now as before the War.

Mr. McKinnon Wood said that he had no definite information in regard to Petroff's nationality, but that he could make representations against his internment to the Advisory Committee appointed to deal with such cases.

"HONORARY."

Miss Miriam Pease, daughter of the Postmaster-General, and Miss Mary Ada Pickford, have been appointed temporary Factory Inspectors, unpaid.

We do not approve of "honorary" State officials; moreover Factory Inspectors have to pass a very stiff examination, and prove experience. Can the ladies in question do so? When shall we see women who have had actual experience of factory work appointed as inspectors?

"HUMAN SUFFRAGE."

DEAR EDITOR,—Human Suffrage, like every other forward move of democracy, has a tough fight before it; for it is up against the eternal passionate desire of human beings to boss each other. This tendency first becomes apparent at a very early age; the small boy in the nursery, barely able to speak, stands stamping his little feet and crying to his baby sister: "No, Jane, oo *mustn't* do that!" Though we may take courage from the fact that Jane invariably continues doing "that," quite undisturbed by anything short of actual physical violence. When the little boy grows up, we will find him bossing his servants, his employees, his wife, his children, even his dog, in precisely the same way—that is to say, he will be giving himself a quite unnecessary amount of trouble in desperate endeavours to substitute his will for theirs—"all for their own good," as he would declare with perfect solemnity and sincerity.

It is unfortunate, too, that many social reformers, of unusually enlightened views, seem to catch this interfering itch sooner or later in a peculiarly virulent form. Mr. H. G. Wells, for instance, is perpetually haunted by a horrid vision of his fellow citizens as a vast, formless mass of grey material—a kind of human plasticine—to be moulded and modelled at will by a few highly-trained, scientific, "efficient," and wholly detestable superprigs into an equal state of efficiency. And all progressive movements would get along much faster if their leaders were not for ever grabbing the work out of each others hands to demonstrate how it really ought to be done.

It is a sign of grace, however, that these benevolent-despotic revolutionaries have no desire to be ruled themselves; they only wish to rule others. The real red reactionary is he or she who takes a positive pleasure in submission, and whose chief idea of behaviour in a crisis is to sit down and bawl for a Strong Man to come along and fish us all out of the mess in which our own laziness and indifference to our country's welfare has landed us. Thank heaven, that Strong Man is not at all likely to be forthcoming; thank heaven, we must really work out our own salvation at the last; and this we shall never do unless we have learnt to exercise that greatest of all virtues, which is charity—charity in its good, sound, ancient sense of tolerance and consideration for our neighbour's opinions (however much they may differ from our own) and not in its sanctimonious perverted modern sense of philantrophy. Also we must learn to think for ourselves, instead of taking our political wisdom ready made from Northcliffe's Emporium; and we must learn to rule our own country, instead of looking on helplessly while its affairs are mismanaged by our paid servants in Parliament; and the only way we can learn is by the primitive method of trial and error. When we get Human Suffrage we must not expect the millennium; we must expect, instead, an uncommonly lively time of it, many amazing blunders and wild experiments; but the ultimate educative effect will be worth all the trouble by the way. Only thus shall we escape from our present miserable condition of apathy, credulity, and futile discontent.

Yours, etc., M. MEARS.

[We do not think there is much danger of "wild experiments" in the democratic field, the coercionists are too strongly organised for democrats to win anything easily.—*Editor* WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.]

THE ATTACK ON TRADE UNIONISM.

At Bow Street on Saturday Mr. Tom Rees, London District Secretary of the A.S.E., was summoned "for that he did unlawfully and contrary to the Defence of the Realm Consolidation Regulations, 1914, attempt to impede and delay the production of war material."

The night shift men were not receiving time and a half, as was being paid elsewhere, and the accusation of bringing undue pressure to bear on the workers to strike against this was brought against Mr. Rees.

The decision was deferred for a fortnight. This is a very serious matter. The workers must rally to protect their own elected officers from victimisation.

The Marquis of Salisbury said that trade union leaders must face the difficulty of the employment of disabled men. Under trade unionism, men were not allowed to accept wages below the standard rate. But many of those men returning from the war would be unable to get work at the standard rate.

Here is another attempt to undermine our wage standards, and destroy the power of the workers' protective organisations! Trade union practices have been set aside during the War. After the War, the capitalists will strive with all their might to prevent the re-establishment of trade union conditions.

The question of employing disabled soldiers was discussed by the House of Laymen at the Convocation of Canterbury, on Feb. 16th.

Mr. Runciman has told the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress that the Government was agreed on the desirability of establishing restoration Committees for dealing with unemployment after the War.

Who are to be on the Committees?

MILITARISM IN AMERICA.

An Anti-"Preparedness" Committee has been formed in America to fight what it calls "the big drive towards militarism" in this country.

The Members of the Committee are Miss Jane Addams; Miss Lillian D. Wald, of the Nurses' Settlement, New York City; Paul U. Kellogg, Editor of *The Survey*; Rev. John Haynes Holmes and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, of New York City; Mrs. Florence Kelley, of the National Consumers' League; Prof. George W. Kirchwey, of Columbia University; Mrs. Crystal Eastman Benedict; L. Hollingsworth Wood; Louis P. Lochner; Miss Alice Lewisohn; Max Eastman and Allan Benson.

The following letter has been addressed to Charles T. Hallinan, by George Bernard Shaw:—

"May I suggest that the proper business of an Anti Militarism Committee is not to denounce conscription, which the firing of a single shot may make irresistible at any moment, but to prepare for it by discussing and defining the conditions on which citizens can accept military service in case of need without abandoning themselves to the hopeless slavery of the soldier. This is the real preparedness which the American nation needs. The English nation did nothing but preach against conscription, and declare that free Englishmen would never submit to it. The result is that now that it has come, it comes in the form of compulsory soldiering of the Prussian type, with abandonment of every civil right; helpless submission to cruel and degrading punishments without trial by jury, for the smallest assertion of self-respect against, not discipline, but insolence and class domination; compulsory innoculation with all sorts of poisons in which there are strong commercial interests; employment in occupations which have no relation to national defence and are either menial or merely theatrical; and barrack life, a thing indescribable even by its advocates. Take warning by our fate; and do not shriek at conscription, but organise it. If you leave it to the militarists to do so, Heaven help you!"

Mrs. Nellie Best, who is Secretary of the Women's Anti-Conscription League, has been summoned to appear at Westminster Police Court, on Saturday, at 2.30 p.m., on the charge of prejudicing recruiting. A short time ago, Mrs. Best's flat was raided, and peace literature and leaflets were seized.

At a sympathiser's shop in Croydon all the change left by customers was put into a box for our Babies' Fund. This amounted to 3s.

Who else will take up this good idea?

Applications for our charming "Babies' House" collecting boxes for Self Denial Week, designed by Mr. Herbert Cole, will be promptly attended to by Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

A well-wisher, aged 80, who signed John Stuart Mill's petition in 1865, has sent Dr. Tchaykovsky a donation for the E.L.F.S. Fund, saying: "I wholly fail to put into words my ardent appreciation of the splendid work you are doing.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND—Mrs. Garner 1.0.0, Miss E. Morgan (monthly) 5.0, Miss L. Cutten 5.0, Mrs. Osorio 5.0, Mrs. Pascoe (monthly) 1.0, Mrs. Ferne (monthly) 1.0, Mrs. Dodge (monthly) 1.0, Mrs. Thomas (monthly) 1.0.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND—S. Franklin, Esq. 5.0, Mrs. Tollemache 5.0, Miss Dorothea Rock 2.6, H. C. Johncock, Esq. 1.0.

FOR MILK & GENERAL DISTRESS—Per Miss A. Stone Blackwell 12.14.8, Miss I. V. Yeoman (10.0 weekly) 2.10.0, F. Moschelles, Esq. 1.0.0, Mrs. Oldham 1.0.0, Mr. & Mrs. Darley 7.0, Mr. & Mrs. Dickinson 6.0, Mrs. Jones 5.3, Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly) 5.0, Miss Lilian Edger (2.6 monthly) 5.0, Miss E. Crabb (monthly) 3.6, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, H. Pateman, Esq. 2.0.

COLLECTIONS—Toolroom L.S.A. 1.9.9½, Bow Clinic 19.4½, Miss P. Lynch 5.3, Amalgamated Society of Carpenters & Joiners, Stratford branch per E. Orslow, Esq. 4.6, Victoria Park (Sunday) 4.3½, Quebec Adult School per Miss Ellis 4.0. Doreen, Laurie, James, Herbert & Ronald Rolf collected in pillar box 1.0½.

CLOTHES—Miss Case, Mrs. Oldham, Mrs. Dill, Mrs. Gertrude Richardson (Manitoba), Miss Chick, Mrs. Sadd-Brown, Baby Lovers' Club per Miss Roberts, Miss M. Kingston, Miss Gore-Browne, Anon, Miss Gliksten.

TOYS—Claire Oldham, Miss Fox.

FLANNEL—Anon.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead W.S.P.U.

ARROWROOT AND PREPARED BARLEY—Five little children.

Miss L. Fox—toys, Mrs. Bullock—knitted garments, Miss Cobb—wool, Mdme. Hercbergowa—toys, Mrs. Waddington—hair ribbons, Mrs. Pullen—cake, Miss Greer—toys, Mrs. Vine—sweets and cakes, Mrs. Day and Mrs. Lee—dolls' clothes, Nurse Hebbes—toys.

Clippings of material of all kinds can be used in our toy factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received, if friends will kindly send them.

Wanted.—Two girls (learners) for toy factory.—Apply 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

Printed by R. H. WILLIAMS (Regd. T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their Offices, 400 Old Pord Road, Bow, E.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.